

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the final Office Action dated August 19, 2010. Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 4, 39, 41, 75, 77, and 83–86. Claims 1–86 remain pending.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the final Office Action, claims 1–86 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as purportedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the final Office Action identified antecedent basis issues in several claims. While Applicant does not necessarily agree with the assertion that claims 1–86 are indefinite, Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 4, 39, 41, 75, 77, and 83–86 for purposes of clarification. Applicant thanks the Examiner for his suggested amendments.

In view of the amendment to the claims, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1–86 are allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, set forth in the final Office Action. In this amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 4, 39, 41, 75, 77, and 83–86 to address the purported antecedent basis issues identified in the final Office Action. Consequently, claims 1–86 are in condition for allowance.

Comments on the Statement of Reasons for the Indication of Allowance

Applicant respectfully requests that the following comments be placed into the prosecution record. The final Office Action included an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for the Indication of Allowance. Applicant agrees with the Examiner's conclusion that claims 1-86 define subject matter that is both novel and nonobvious over the cited art. Although the Statement of Reasons for the Indication of Allowance referred to particular claim limitations in support of allowance, Applicant notes that the claims as a whole require a combination of features that together serve to patentably distinguish the claimed inventions from the prior art. Further, Applicant's dependent claims are allowable for additional reasons not cited by the Examiner.

Applicant does not necessarily agree with or acquiesce to the characterization of these patents provided in the Statement of Reasons for the Indication of Allowance. For example, Applicant does not agree that Sachdeva et al. (U.S. 2004/0214128) discloses planar guides. Applicant does agree, however, that Sachdeva et al. as well as the other references of record fail to disclose or suggest the subject matter of Applicant's claims.

CONCLUSION

All claims in this application are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 50-1778. The Examiner is invited to telephone the below-signed attorney to discuss this application.

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